GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5028
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2000
NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ORGANIC FARMING
KANTI SINGH;RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the harmful effects of agro-chemicals are showing up in the world and greater interest is being shown towards organic farming;

(b) whether in western countries demand of organic produce is oustripping supplies and estimated market is already of about $ 10 billion (Rs.44000 crores); and

(c) whether the Government is considering to have National Commission on OrganicFarming with sufficient funds, if not, how the organic farming is proposed to be promoted?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO)

(a) & (b) A greater awareness is emerging about the possible ill-effects of use of high doses of agro-chemicals in agriculture. The demand for organic produce is apparently gaining popularity world over particularly in western countries. However, it is difficult to make an exact assessment of demand and supply of organic products required in the western countries. In the Indian context, complete dependence on organic sources of plant nutrients and biological pest control measures etc. may not ensure high levels of crop production. For enhanced and sustained foodgrain production, Government is advocating balanced and integrated use of plant nutrients and integrated pest management practices. Such a strategy ensures that use of agro- chemical is kept at an optimum level.

(c) Government has decided to set up a Task Force on Organic Farming and not a National Commission on Organic Farming.